

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01803 010650Z

11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

SAJ-01 /073 W
----- 063502

R 311630Z AUG 76
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3007
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1803

E.O.11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, US, UK, UR, GW
SUBJECT: NORTHERN CROSSING POINT- GDR SHOWS INTEREST IN DUCKBILL DEAL

REFS: A) USBERLIN 1719, B) USBERLIN 1604

SUMMARY: GDR VISITS COMMISSIONER MITDANK HAS INDICATED TTO SENAT REPRESENTATIVE KUNZE THAT GDR IS INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE SALE OR EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY INVOLVING SO-CALLED FROHNAU DUCKBILL. SENAT ENCOURATED BY APPARENT GDR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE AND WOULD LIKE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBTAINING DUCKBILL SIMILAR TO THOSE INVOLVING ACQUISITION OF POTSDAMER PLATZ. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT WEEKS SENAT HAS RECEIVED STRONG SIGNALS THAT GDR WISHED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SALE OR EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY INVOLVING FROHNAU DUCKBILL. FOLLOWING UP VARIOUS GDR SUGGESTIONS THAT HE DO SO SENAT'S VISITS COMMISSIONER KUNZE TELEPHONED HIS COUNTERPART MITDANK LATE LAST WEEK AND AFTER BRIEF EXCHANGE MITDANK PUT WORDS INTO KUNZE'S MOUTH TO EFFECT THAT KUNZE HAD RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ABOUT DUCKBILL PROBLEMS THAT HE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01803 010650Z

MITDANK, WOULD BE PREPARED TO ANSWER.

2. AT MEETING AUGUST 26 KUNZE AND MITDANK RITUALISTICALLY WALTZED THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THE DUCKBILL(KUNZE: OPENING OF NORTHERN CROSSING POINT ONLY POSSIBLE IF SENAT OBTAINS DUCKBILL--MITDANK: GDR'S OFFICIAL POSITION REMAINS NO SALE). FINALLY, HOWEVER, MITDANK SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO LISTEN " INFORMALLY" TO ANY PROPOSALS KUNZE MIGHT HAVE FOR RESOLVING DUCKBILL PROBLEM. KUNZE ONCE AGAIN LAID OUT SENAT POSITION THAT NORTHERN CROSSING POINT ONLY MADE SENSE IF ACCESS WERE TO RUN ALONG ORANIENBURGER CHAUSEE SINCE OTHERWISE POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL COSTS OF PROJECT WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, KUNZE OBTAINED FROM MITDANK PROMISE OF GDR ESTIMATE OF COST BREAKDOWN FOR WORK TO BE COMPLETED ON GDR SIDE OF ZERNDORFER WEG WITHOUT, HOWEVER, COMMITTING SENAT TO ANYTHING MORE THAN POSSIBLY SHARING CONSTRUCTION COST.

3. MITDANK,ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT HE HAD NO BRIEF TO DISCUSS ISSUE, SUGGESTED TO KUNZE THAT PARCEL OF WEST BERLIN LAND AT ALBRECHTS-TEEROFEN (WHERE FORMER ALLIED CHECKPOINT DREILINDEN WAS LOCATED) WAS PIECE OF LAND WHICH GDR HAD LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN OBTAINING, AND MIGHT BE SUITABLE PLOT FOR EXCHANGE AGAINST DUCKBILL. KUNZE TOLD MITDANK THAT HE SAW VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF SWAP ALONG THESE LINES AND REPEATED THAT THE SENAT WAS PREPARED TO PAY SUITABLE PRICE FOR DUCKBILL. KUNZE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS CEILING PRICE FOR PURCHASE OF DUCKBILL, CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROADS AND PREPARATION OF CROSSING POINT AREA ABOVE WHICH SENAT COULD NOT AFFORD TO GO. MITDANK ATTEMPTED TO GET KUNZE TO NAME APPROPRIATE PRICE FOR DUCKBILL BUT KUNZE TURNED QUERY BACK, INDICATING THAT GDR IN BETTER POSITION TO EVALUATE WORTH OF HOUSES AND PARCEL OF LAND IN QUESTION.

4. ASKED BY MITDANK ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01803 010650Z

ACCESS ROAD TO CROSSING POINT ALONG FORMER S-BAHN RIGHT OFWAY, KUNZE REPLIED THIS POSSIBILITY STILL UNDER STUDY BUT FOR NUMEROUS TECHNICAL REASONS SENAT PREFERRED TO PURCHASE THE DUCKBILL. MITDANK AGREED TO REPORT KUNZE'S VIEWS TO HIS SUPERIORS AND AGREED TO MEET AGAIN SEPTEMBER 1 IN EAST BERLIN.

5. SENAT PLEASED BY GDR'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO

RECONSIDER DUCKBILL QUESTION. PROPOSALS TO ROUTE TRAFFIC TO NORTHERN CROSSING POINT THROUGH CENTER OF FROHANAU HAVE MET WITH SUCH VIOLENT LOCAL OPPOSITION AS TO MAKE THAT PLAN POLITICALLY UNWORKABLE. SENAT FEELS HOWEVER THAT LOCAL CITIZENS' OPPOSITION, WHICH ORIGINALLY APPEARED TO BE POLITICAL LIABILITY, NOW IS WORKING IN ITS FAVOR BECAUSE IT HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO GDR NECESSITY FOR SENAT TO FIND ALTERNATIVE WAY TO ROUTE TRAFFIC TO NORTHERN CROSSING POINT.

6. SENAT HAS QUIETLY SURVEYED DUCKBILL AREA AND HAS DETERMINED THAT IT CONTAINS 32 HOUSES WITH, HOWEVER, ONLY 22 RESIDENTS. USING CURRENT WEST BERLIN MARKET VALUES AS GUIDE, SENAT BELIEVES THAT DM 35 MILLION WOULD BE FAIR PRICE FOR PROPERTY(SENAT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR HERZ OBSERVED THAT SENAT COULD GAIN BACK AT LEAST THAT AMOUNT THROUGH RESALE OF PROPERTY ONCE IT OBTAINED DUCKBILL).

7. HERZ ADVISED SENAT LIAISON OFFICERS THAT AT AUGUST 27 MEETING OF GOVERNING MAYOR AND RANKING SENAT MEMBERS IT WAS DECIDED THAT SENAT WOULD ACTIVELY SEEK TO NEGOTIATE PURCHASE OF DUCKBILL. HERZ OBSERVED THAT THERE REMAINS OF COURSE TREMENDOUS NUMBER OF PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME BEFORE ANYTHING CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED. FOR ONE THING MITDANK HAS SUGGESTED EXCHANGE OF SETTLED PIECE OF WEST BERLIN FOR DUCKBILL. SENAT, HOWEVER, WENT ON RECORD FIVE YEARS AGO THAT IT WOULD " NEVER" EXCHANGE SETTLED PIECE OF WEST BERLIN FOR EAST BERLIN OR EAST GERMAN TERRITORY. HERZ ALSO NOTED THAT SENAT WOULD NEED ALLIED AUTHORITY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 USBERL 01803 010650Z

TO COMPLETE DEAL WITH GDR AND HOPED THAT ALLIES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN GRANTING AUTHORIZATION SIMILAR TO THAT ISSUED AT THE TIME OF THE PURCHASE OF THE POTSDAMER PLATZ.

8. KUNZE-MITDANK MEETING ON QUESTION DUCKBILL HAS NOT YET LEAKED AND SENAT HOPES IT WILL REMAIN POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE LID ON FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE SINCE PUBLICITY COULD DAMAGE ITS NEGOTIATING POSITION.

GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN HIGHWAY ACCESS, BORDER CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USBERL01803
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760331-0521
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976081/aaaaaaes.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USBERLIN 1719, 76 USBERLIN 1604
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHERN CROSSING POINT- GDR SHOWS INTEREST IN DUCKBILL DEAL
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GC, US, UK, UR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006